

UNION TOWNSHIP SCHOOL
(Ringtown Union School)
East side of State Route 4033, 0.4 miles
north of State Route 4037, approx. 0.3
miles north of Ringtown Borough
~~Union Township~~ Ringtown Borough vic.
Schuylkill County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5667

HABS
PA
54-RINGT.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HABS
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

UNION TOWNSHIP SCHOOL (Ringtown Union School)

HABS No. PA-5667

Location: East side of State Route 4033, 0.4 miles north of State Route 4037, approximately 0.3 miles north of Ringtown Borough, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

Significance: The school was used from 1930 to 1968 by school age children from both Ringtown Borough and Union Township.

Description: The structure is a one-story brick masonry building with a full basement, partially exposed to the slope of the land. It was built in the Colonial Revival Style of architecture. There are stone sills and steel lintels with windows of wood sash, double hung and grouped in twos. False chimneys are at both gable ends of an L-shaped floor plan.

The greatly deteriorated roof covering consists of bituminous asphalt shingle, with wooden soffit and fascia with twelve-inch overhang.

This building has been vacant for over fourteen years, during which time the natural elements have caused deterioration to the structure. There are several large holes in the roof which have allowed water and wind damage to occur to the interior of the building. Heating and ventilation have been off during this time, which has lead to further deterioration of the interior.

The structure sits on 6.5± acres in a very rural part of Schuylkill County. Since Union Township has never had an official township municipal building, the school could possibly have served as a surrogate municipal building or general government meeting place, able to accommodate groups of people in one of its larger rooms. Additionally, the school may have served as the center of community life as there was no other central, active focal point in the area.

The school property was accessed from Mifflinville Road from the west. Driving onto the property via a dirt road placed one along the true north side of the school, with the main entrance facing west. Continuing along the length of the dirt road toward the rear of the school led one to a large open field, perhaps once used as a playground for the school children. The remnants of a swing set are located behind the building.

Plans and other historical references were searched out for accurate recording purposes. Sources were checked for any plans or drawings which may have existed. (Sources were Mr. Thomas Gallagher, County of Schuylkill and Mr. Charles Greco, Superintendent of the North Schuylkill School District). No plans, drawings, blueprints, etc. are known to exist.

The Schuylkill County Historical Society was contacted for any information which it could possibly provide regarding the school. No information was received from the County Historical Society.

History: The cornerstone of the Union Township School was laid in 1929 (It was not obviously visible when searched for during field-visits). Classes for grades 1 through 8 were begun in 1930. The school was also used by the Township for meetings, dances, plays, etc. and as a polling place for Township residents.

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In 1962, the building was renamed the Ringtown Union School when the Township and Ringtown Borough Schools were combined. The Borough grade school children were sent to this school in Union Township while the high school students were sent to Ringtown Borough School. Kindergarten was added during this period.

Ringtown Union School became part of North Schuylkill School District in 1966 but was vacated in 1968 because of much needed structural repairs. The grade school students were sent to Ringtown Borough School and to various other North Schuylkill schools. At this point North Schuylkill School District stripped the building of every usable item.

Ringtown Area Activities Organization occupied the building in 1971. This was an organization which sponsored various activities for the area's youth. The building continued to deteriorate drastically and the school was permanently vacated in 1977.

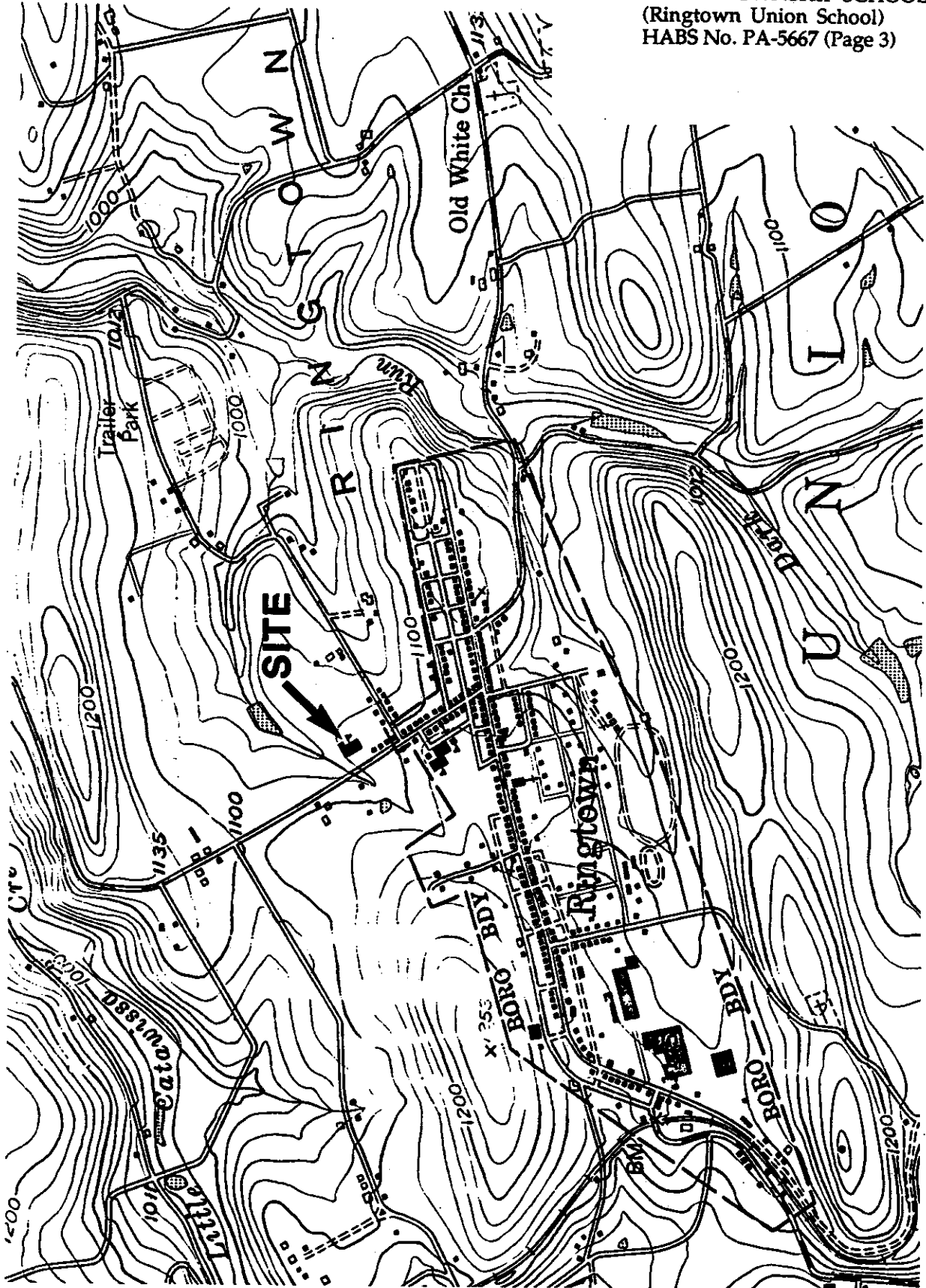
North Schuylkill School District deeded the property to Union Township in 1980. A recreational area was constructed on the grounds near the building in 1986.

Source: Unknown.

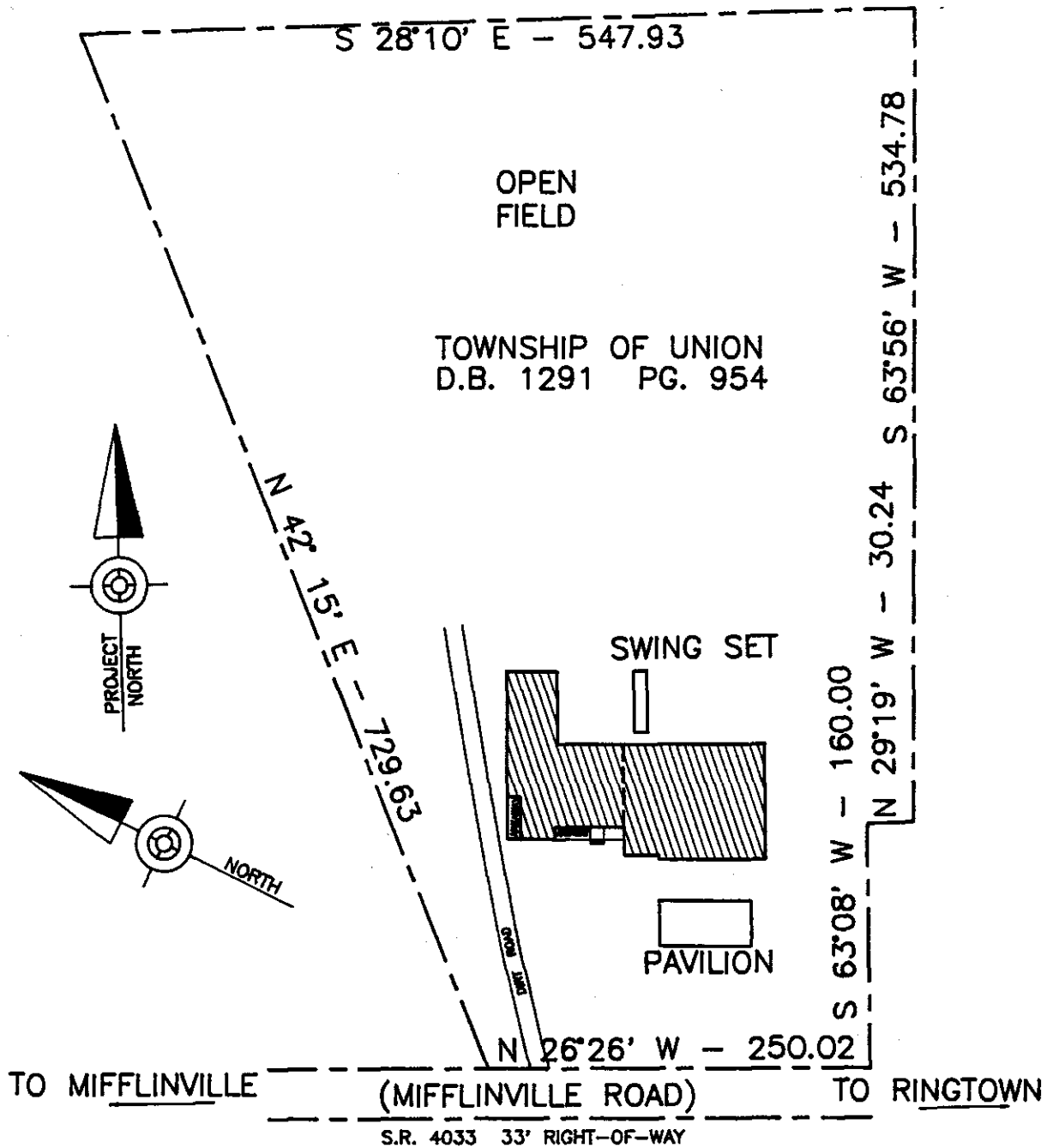
Site visit in February, 1992.

Historian: Marjorie Williams
Staff Planner
May, 1992
Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Inc.

Walter J. Haglund, AIA
Registered Architect
February, 1992
Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Inc.



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1992 SITE PLAN

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